

**From:** Zimran Ahmed  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/12/01 11:16pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To: Renata B. Hesse  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW  
Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Department of Justice:

I recently came upon a patent filed by Microsoft for digital rights management at the operating system layer.

<http://patft.uspto.gov/netacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO2&Sect2=HITOFF&p=1&u=/netahtml/search-adv.htm&r=1&f=G&l=50&d=CR99&S1=5,892,900.UREF.&OS=ref/5,892,900&RS=REF/5,892,900>

This patent grants Microsoft the right to effectively veto any competition for digital rights management infrastructure. Moreover, the proposed DoJ settlement (section j) specifically protects Microsoft from having to "document, disclose or license to third parties: (a) portions of APIs or Documentation or portions or layers of Communications Protocols the disclosure of which would compromise the security of anti-piracy, anti-virus, software licensing, digital rights management, encryption or authentication systems, including without limitation, keys, authorization tokens or enforcement criteria"

You will notice that since Microsoft's entire operating system is moving towards digital rights management, the settlement protects them from having to disclose \*any\* portion of it to anyone else. This clearly renders the current settlement entirely ineffectual, as everything the company does is exempt under this clause.

Sincerely,

Zimran Ahmed